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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Military and Political Information:
Activities of Communist Troops in
Taian, Shantung

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25X1A [REDACTED] Note: Taian has changed hands four times within the past year. The Communists captured it in June 1946 and held it until 2 April 1947, when the Nationalists recaptured it. On 28 April the Communists retook it and held it again until 6 May, when the Nationalists re-entered the town. As of 26 May the Communists were again attempting to capture the town. This report concerns the period of Communist occupation from June 1946 to April 1947, when source left Taian.)

Types of Communist troops in Taian area

1. There were several types of Communists troops in Taian (117-11,36-14).
 - a. New 4th Army troops, composed of Kiangsu and Chekiang men, who seemed very homesick and might have surrendered if offered good terms. They insisted they were not Communists but were "Democrats" and objected to being called "comrade". Source saw them under fire and considers them good fighters. The New 4th Army soldiers were somewhat antagonistic toward the 8th Route Army because they claimed that the New 4th does the fighting and capturing of cities. Then the 8th Route Army occupies the captured cities and orders the New 4th to battles elsewhere.
 - b. "Peoples Liberation Army" troops or 8th Route Army regulars wear uniforms like those of the New 4th Army and are armed with machine guns, rifles and hand grenades (sometimes only the latter). They are not as well-disciplined as the New Fourth Army troops (see paragraph 2) but are not so bad as Nationalist troops, whose first interests after saving themselves are "gambling, majong, and concubines".
 - c. T'u Pa Lu or Local 8th Route Army troops carry revolvers, do not wear uniforms, and "swank" considerably.

Discipline and Morale

2. The men of the New 4th Army are well-disciplined. Source believes that the Chinese Communist troops are "better behaved" than any Chinese troops he has ever seen. They are adequately supplied

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with food and necessities. Heavy levying of grain, etc., is made for the sustenance of troops so that they do not take anything from shops and market stalls without paying for it themselves. When the New 4th Army troops occupied source's compound they did not steal anything. When they departed they returned everything they had borrowed, much to the astonishment of source. Officers and men wear the same uniform, eat the same food, and carry their own packs. Officers and men walk, as mules are used only for arms and equipment. The morale of the Communist soldier is good also because he knows that his family is cared for by the Communists. Formerly families of soldiers in Communist territory received grain allowances each month. Recently, with heavier conscription taking place, if a young son is conscripted, the family is given two acres (mou?) of land from a rich landowner and provision made for its tilling if the family is incapacitated. When a soldier is killed, his family is cared for by the Communists. In contrast, a Nationalist soldier's first concern is to save his own life, knowing that his family receives no grain or allowance of any kind upon his death.

25X1A () note: There is a law governing compensation for families of Nationalist soldiers who are killed, but in actual practice families rarely receive compensation.)

Communist Tactics and Mobility

3. 8th Route Army officers told source that they will not engage in a battle unless they outnumber the Nationalists three or even four to one because they know that their equipment is far inferior to that of the Nationalists. If Nationalist troops appear in force, the Communists always retreat; if the Communists find a small group of Nationalist troops, they attack immediately. Communist troops claim they can travel forty-five miles a night between 1800 hours and 0600 hours. The Nationalists move only twenty miles a day in spite of motor transport and air support, which may actually be a hindrance instead of a help to them.

Destruction of Property

4. The Communist excuse for damaging property is to keep the Nationalists from using it. Before leaving Taian the Communists tore up the railway from Kushan (116-52,36-33) to Yenchou (116-54,35-36), carrying away all rails, selling sleepers, and blowing up the bridges. The railroad station in Taian was also torn down, the water tanks removed, and the pumping stations dismantled. All roofs, doors and windows of the Taian Railroad Hotel and the extensive buildings added by the Japanese were removed, with the local populace being encouraged to help. Generators in the electric plant were removed, the chimney torn down, and the roof ripped off. Electric wire poles were cut down and the local flour mill dismantled. The extensive water pipe system installed by the Japanese was dug up and smashed and the iron pipes sold to the local populace. Mission church buildings were wrecked. Source was told that great damage had been done to coal mines in southern Shantung at Tsaochuang (117-38,34-55) and Taierh-chuang (117-48,34-36) and the smaller mines at Hsintai (117-45,35-54) and Laiwu (117-39,36-12).

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